THE CUCKOO.

THE NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

VOL. I.—No. 15. MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1881. ONE PENNY.

COLLINSON

AND

LOCK'S

FURNITURE AND WOODWORK,

INEXPENSIVE

AND

ORIGINAL IN DESIGN.

109, FLEET-STREET, E.C.

TIME for APRIL. Edited by EDMUND YATES. A Magazine of Interesting and Amusing Literature. One shilling.

TIME for APRIL. Trips with Rocky Mountain Trappers, A Sketch of Irish Character, Mine Ease in Mine Inn, Furniture, Fixtures, and the Fine Arts.

TIME for APRIL. Some April Birds (with Double-page Illustration). Contributions by Dutton Cook, Violet Fane, Major Arthur Griffiths, S. K. Phillips, B. H. Buxton, and many others.

TIME for APRIL. Novels, Pooms, Pictures, Essays.—1, York-street, Covent-garden, and all Bookstalls.

Now ready, Second Edition, cloth gilt, price 1s., by post 1s. 2d.

THE LETTER-WRITER'S VADE MECUM and DICTIONARY SUPPLEMENT. The Indispensable Companion of all engaged in Correspondence. It contains Hundreds of Word-forms not to be found in the ordinary Dictionary, a complete List of the Participles of Verbs, Homonyms, Synonyms, and Foreign Words and Phrases in every-day use. It should always be at hand to solve those doubts as to the correct spelling of words which occur at times to most Letter-writers.

London: C. W. DEACON & CO., 455, Strand, W.C.

THE PHRENOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for April, price 6d., contains a Phrenological Description (with Portrait) of Baroness Coutts Bartlett; the Zulus and their Phrenology; Food and Mind, &c.

HOW TO LEARN PHRENOLOGY. (Illustrated.) By L. N. FOWLER. Price 6d.

London: FOWLER, Imperial Buildings, Ludgate Circus, E.C.

Professor KEX's

STARTLING DELINEATIONS OF CHARACTER FROM HANDWRITING.

Fee, 19 Stamps.

18, NAPIER STREET, HOXTON, N.

THE CLAY CROSS COMPANY'S

CELEBRATED COAL.

This day's prices—Best 24s.; Seconds, 22s.

Orders to Chief Office—

12, BURWOOD PLACE, W.

CHARLES CODD'S

ORANGE CHAMPAGNE.

ORANGE CHAMPAGNE.

ORANGE CHAMPAGNE.

ORANGE CHAMPAGNE
Is made simply from Oranges.

ORANGE CHAMPAGNE
Is a Light and Wholesome Tonic.

ORANGE CHAMPAGNE,
Being free from Chemicals, as well as Spirit, is the Purest and Best of the Non-Alcholic Drinks.

ORANGE CHAMPAGNE.
Price, in large champagne bottles, 7s. per dozen; in small, 4s. Bottles charged 2s., and same allowed when returned.

C. CODD & Co.,

79, COPENHAGEN STREET, LONDON.

Sold by all Grocers, Chemists, and Wine Merchants.

MINTON'S CHINA.

PRICES as at the MANUFACTORY.

SPECIALITIES in TABLE DECORATIONS.

ALL the NEWEST PATTERNS in COMMON and BEST.

DINNER and DESSERT SERVICES.

BREAKFAST and TEA SERVICES.

TOILET SERVICES.

PLAIN ENGRAVED and CUT GLASS SERVICES.

Every Description and Price.

W. P. & G. PHILLIPS,

ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS IN POTTERY AND PORCELAIN,

357 358, & 359, OXFORD ST., LONDON, W.

HATS! HATS!! HATS!!! J. FORTESCUE'S HATS for 10s. and 6d. each are the best in London; in all the newest shapes for 1881.

129, Fleet Street, E.C.

245, Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park.

143, Mare Street, Triangle, Hackney.

86, Exmouth Street, Clerkenwell, E.C.

ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL (Incorporated by Royal Charter), for the treatment of club foot, spinal and other deformities, 313, Oxford-street. Supported by voluntary contributions. Numbers of patients benefited, 58,000; now under treatment, 2,000. £10 10s. constitutes a life governor; £5 5s. a governor for ten years; £1 1s. annually an annual governor, each entitled to recommend patients. CONTRIBUTIONS thankfully received by Messrs. Martin and Co., 68, Lombard-street; and by Mr. Benjamin Maskell, Secretary, at the Hospital.

One of the Sights and one of the Comforts of London

THE

HOLBORN RESTAURANT,

218, HIGH HOLBORN.

THE FAMOUS TABLE D'HOTE DINNER in the GRAND SALON, the PRINCE'S SALON, and the DUKE'S SALON, at Separate Tables every Evening. 5.30 to 8.30.

SOUPS; TWO KINDS OF FISH; ENTREES; JOINTS; SWEETS; ICES; CHEESE, in variety; SALAD, &c. 3s. 6d.

A SELECTION OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OF A REFINED CHARACTER IS PERFORMED BY A COMPLETE ORCHESTRA DURING DINNER.

DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS FROM DAILY BILL OF FARE.

EUGENE CLICQUOT'S OLD CHAMPAGNE.

Two generations' experience of this celebrated Wine encourages

JAMES CAMPBELL, 158, Regent-st., London

to recommend it as the best for England, India, and the Colonies. Price 63s. per dozen.

ROYAL HOSPITAL for INCURABLES, West-hill, Putney-heath.

Patron—H.R.H. the Prince of WALES, K.G., &c.

Treasurer—John Derby Allcroft, Esq., F.R.A.S.

There are 188 inmates of the Hospital.

There are upwards of 150 Candidates for Election.

The Hospital has room for only six additional inmates.

The new wing, in course of erection, will be completed by the end of the present year.

DONATIONS to the General Fund and to the Building Fund are earnestly and respectfully solicited. The two funds, although distinct, confer equal rights of voting—viz., one life vote for each £5 5s.

A Donation of £525 for the Building Fund gives also the privilege of naming a ward in perpetuity.

A Donation of £105 entitles the donor to name a bed in perpetuity.

Annual Subscriptions of half a guinea and upwards entitle to votes.

Money orders payable to the Secretary at 103, Queen Victoria-street.

"A Strange Holiday," by Zeta, sent post free on application. FREDERIC ANDREW, Secretary.

Office, 103, Queen Victoria-street, London.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY (Limited). No. 7, Bank-buildings, Lothbury, E.C.

General Accidents. Railway Accidents. | Personal Injuries. Death by Accidents.

C. HARDING, Manager.

NOTICE TO INVENTORS.

JULIUS HALL, Patent Agent, Obtains LETTERS PATENT and REGISTRATION OF DESIGN, 90, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

Now ready, price 1s. (post-free, 14 Stamps), the SIXTH EDITION of

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS TO INVENTORS, containing CAUTION TO ALL INVENTORS; a Chapter on TRADE MARKS; a Chapter on METHOD OF OBTAINING LETTERS PATENT; and a Chapter containing 130 PRACTICAL MECHANICAL MOVEMENTS, with Explanation of each Diagram.

JULIUS HALL, 90, Chancery Lane.

AMUSEMENTS.

DRURY LANE.—THE NATIONAL THEATRE.—AUGUSTUS HARRIS, Lessee and Manager. THE WORLD, pronounced by the *Times* Newspaper, in its review of the theatrical year, to be most undoubtedly the greatest success of the year. By Augustus Harris, William Rignold, Macklin, Gibson, Huntly, Boleyn, Lilly, Gresham, Ridley, and Harry Jackson; Misses Fanny Josephs, Fanny Brough, Maude De Vere, M'Namara, and Louisa Payne.

DRURY LANE.—THE STORES, at 7.30. Director of the Stores, Mr. Walter Pelham; Miss Kathleen Corri, Mr. Douglas Cox, Mr. De Lange, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Boughton, Mr. Buccalessi, Mr. Weldon.

LYCEUM.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HENRY IRVING.—THE CUP.—THE CORSICAN BROTHERS.—Alfred Tennyson's Tragedy, THE CUP, TO NIGHT, at a Quarter to Eight. Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Irving, Mr. Terriss. THE CORSICAN BROTHERS at Half-past Nine. Mr. Irving. Box Office (Mr. Hurst) open 10 to 5. Seats booked by Letter or Telegram. THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM, April 16. This Theatre will be closed during Passion Week, re-opening on Saturday, April 16, when will be presented Mr. Cowley's Comedy, THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM. Doricourt, Mr. Irving; Letitia Hardy, Miss Ellen Terry. Preceded by Alfred Tennyson's Tragedy, THE CUP. Seats can now be booked.—LYCEUM.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. A. and S. GATTI.—THIS EVENING, at 8, MICHAEL STROGOFF. Mr. C. Warner, Mr. H. J. Byron, and Mrs. Hermann Vezin; Messrs. J. Fernandez, Irish, Rosier, Warren, Russell, Palmer, Proctor; Mesdames Bernard-Beere and Gerard. At 7.15, BARNEY THE BARON. Mr. Shiel Barry, Miss Clara Jecks.

OLYMPIC.—JENNIE LEE.—JO.—FAREWELL PERFORMANCES.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30. Miss JENNIE LEE; Mesdames Dolores Drummond, M. Leighton, F. Smithers, C. Steele, F. Leyton, C. Humphreys, &c.; Mr. J. P. Burnett; Messrs. Howell, Dolby, Compton, Andrews, Leigh, Crisp, &c. Preceded, at 7.30, by FAMILY JARS. Misses Smithers and Leyton. Messrs. Compton, Crisp, Grahame. Box Office open 10 till 5. No Booking Fees. Carriages 10.45.—General Manager, Mr. J. H. COBBE.—OLYMPIC.

GAIETY THEATRE, Strand.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD.—7.0, OPERETTA. 7.20, LITTLE MOTHER: Miss L. Venne, &c. 8.30, FORTY THIEVES (Burlesque) in 3 Acts. Misses Farren, Vaughan, Gilchrist, Broughton, Gilbert, Hewett; Terry, Royce, Squire, Dallas, Two Macs, and Chorus.

GLOBE.—The THEATRE will REOPEN on SATURDAY, the 16th April, with an entirely new Opera Comique, in Three Acts, by Offenbach, entitled MARGOT. First Time in this country. Produced under the immediate direction of Mr. H. B. Farnie, supported by a strongly augmented Company and elaborate Mise-en-Scene. Full particulars will shortly be announced.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—SPECIAL NOTICE.—On SATURDAY, April 2nd, will be produced an entirely New and Original Romantic Spectacular Drama of Sensational Interest, entitled, BRANDED, written by Richard Lee.

BRANDED.—On SATURDAY NEXT, April 2, at 7.45, will be produced an entirely New and Original Romantic Spectacular Drama of sensational interest, entitled BRANDED, written by Richard Lee. New and realistic Scenery by Charles Brooke. New Overture and incidental Music by Michael Connelly. New Military Costumes direct from the Army Contractors, Paris. The horses supplied by Mr. George Sanger. Preceded at 7.0 by Farce, THE INTRIGUE.—SATURDAY NEXT, April 2. Box-office open daily.—ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE. BRANDED.—Messrs. HENRY NEVILLE, Redmund, F. Archer, J. Beauchamp, F. Charles, C. Sidney, Allen Thomas, Hewitt, Escourt, Evens, Gardiner, Greville, W. Avondale, Chamberlain, Stirling, &c.; Misses Caroline Hill, Maud Milton, Katie Barry &c.: Mrs. Huntley and Mrs. Lyons. The Drama produced under the direction of Mr. Harry Jackson.—SATURDAY NEXT, April 2.—ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

PRINCE of WALES'S ROYAL THEATRE. Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. EDGAR BRUCE.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.40, a New Comedy, in Three Acts, called THE COLONEL, by F. C. Burnand. Preceded, at 7.50 by IN HONOUR BOUND, by Sydney Grundy. Mr. Coghlan, Mr. Flockton, Mr. W. Herbert, Mr. Eric Bayley, Mr. Rowland Buckstone, and Mr. Edgar Bruce; Miss Amy Roselle, Miss Myra Holme, Miss C. Grahame, Miss Eva Sothern, Mrs. Leigh Murray, &c. Doors open at 7.30; commence at 7.50. Box Office open daily, from Eleven to Five.—THE COLONEL. MATINEES, THIS DAY, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, March 30, SATURDAY, April 2. Doors open at 2, commence at 2.30. An early application for seats is necessary.

ROYALTY.—The Ancestral Home of Burlesque. Manageress, KATE LAWLER.—PEGGY: A New and Original Drama, by Joe MacKay, will be produced THIS EVENING, at Half-past Seven precisely. Characters by Kate Lawler, Harriet Coveney, Amy Crawford, Ruth Francis, Florence Lavender, Sylvia Grey, and E. Ritta; Edward Righton, Frank Cooper, H. Kelcey, H. Martell, and Seymour Dallas. New and Realistic Scenery, specially designed and executed by Bruce Smith.—123rd NIGHT of DON JUAN JUNIOR. Now in the full tide of its success.—DON JUAN JUNIOR. "An overwhelming triumph."—GLOBE. Seats may be booked one month in advance. Musical Director, Herr Max Schroter; Secretary and Treasurer, Frank Rothsay; Acting and General Business Manager for Kate Lawler, Cecil Raleigh.

STRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. SWANBOROUGH.—THIS EVENING, at 8, a New and Original Opera Comique, in Three Acts, entitled OLIVETTE, adapted from the French of Chivot and Duru. Written and produced by M. B. Farnie. Preceded, at 7.30, by A SUMMER CLOUD. The Entertainment supported by a Powerful Company. Doors open at 7. Box Office open daily.—MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.0.

OPERA COMIQUE.—LAST SIX NIGHTS of THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE in consequence of the preparations for the production at Easter of a NEW ÆSTHETIC OPERA by Messrs. W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. D'OYLY CARTE.

FOLLY.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. L. TOOLE. TO-NIGHT, at 7.30, HESTER'S MYSTERY. At 8.15, 343rd Time, a New and Original Comedy, in Three Acts, by Henry J. Byron, called THE UPPER CRUST. Barnaby Doublechick, Mr. J. L. Toole. At 10.15, THE STEEPLECHASE. Mr. J. L. Toole. Box Office open 10 till 5.—Prices: 1s. to £3 3s. No Free List. No Fees for Booking. Doors open at 7.

NEW SADLER'S WELLS.—Miss BATEMAN as MARY WARNER for THREE WEEKS ONLY. TO-NIGHT, at 8, Tom Taylor's Popular Play, MARY WARNER. Miss Bateman, Messrs. E. H. Brooke, E. Lyons, A. Redwood, R. Lyons, B. Leslie, G. Canninge, &c.; Mrs. Huntley and Miss Compton. Prices from 6d. to 7s. 6d. Doors open at 6.30. Farce at 7. Box Office open 11 to 5.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—TO-NIGHT (First Time), at 8.0 o'clock, will be produced JEANNE, JEANNETTE, AND JEANNETON, a New Comic Opera, in a Prologue and Three Acts, by MM. Clairville and Delacour. Music by P. Lacome. The English Libretto by R. Reece. Characters by Mesdames Loseby, St. Quinten, Alice May, Ivanova, Jamieson, Martino; Messrs. W. H. Woodfield, W. S. Penley, Kelleher, Power, Collini, Sweetman, and Fred Leslie. —TO-NIGHT (First Time). In Act II. is introduced a New Grand Mythological Ballet, entitled ENDYMION (Music by G. Jacobi): Danseuses, Mdlles. Pertoldi, Gillert, Rosa, and Palladino, supported by the entire Corps de Ballet.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.—St. George's Hall, Langham-place.—THE TURQUOISE RING, OUR INSTITUTE, and ALL AT SEA. Every Evening (except Thursday and Saturday) at 8. Every Thursday and Saturday at 3. Admission, 1s. and 2s.; stalls, 3s. and 5s.

NAVIGANTINE.—SEA SICKNESS PREVENTED.

TO PERSONS CROSSING THE CHANNEL "NAVIGANTINE" is INDISPENSABLE.

By its Use SEA SICKNESS Is Entirely Avoided.

THE HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES SAY IT IS THE ONLY SPECIFIC.

One Dose before Breakfast.

IS AN INFALLIBLE REMEDY AGAINST NAUSEA DURING PREGNANCY.

London Depot.
KING WILLIAM-STREET, STRAND, W.C.
And at all Principal Chemists.
Price 4s. per Bottle.
Paris Agents—Roberts and Co., 23, Place Vendome.

"Cleanse the Blood."
OLD DR. JACOB TOWNSEND'S SARSAPARILLA.
Highly recommended for all kinds of Blood and Skin Diseases, Pimples, Eruptions, &c. The best Spring and Autumn Medicine.
SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.
CAUTION.—GET THE RED AND BLUE WRAPPER, WITH THE DOCTOR'S HEAD IN THE CENTRE. No other is genuine. In bottles, 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., and 11s.—Sold by all Druggists.

BORWICK'S For BREAD, PASTRY AND PUDDINGS.
BAKING
FOUR GOLD MEDALS. POWDER.

MAPLE & CO.
ARE NOW OFFERING
THIRTY MILES OF
BEST BRUSSELS
CARPETS at 3s. 9d. per yard.
THESE GOODS, by some of the First Manufacturers, are of superior quality, the designs and colourings new and artistic. They are 1s. per yard under the usual price asked at the West End for the same quality
MAPLE & CO.,
TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON.

SPECIALITIES.
SYRIAN EMBROIDERED CURTAINS, for Summer use, 9s. per pair.
KURDISTAN or PERSIAN HEARTH RUGS, from 10s. 6d.
GENUINE RAMPOOR CHUDDAR, from 21s.
BEAUTIFUL JAPANESE FOLDING SCREENS, from 21s.
A VAST ASSEMBLAGE OF DECORATIVE ORIENTAL OBJECTS, from 6d. to 100 Guineas.
MAGNIFICENT SPECIMENS of GENUINE JAPANESE and CHINESE PORCELAIN.
INDIAN DURRIES, for Sortieres, &c., from 3s. 6d. INDIAN CARPETS.
FARMER & ROGERS, 117, 119, Regent-street,
INDIAN SHAWL WAREHOUSEMEN BY APPOINTMENT TO THE QUEEN.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—All Advertisements intended for insertion in the "CUCKOO" should reach the ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE, 86, FLEET STREET, E.C., by the EVENING before the DAY intended for their appearance.

H. FREEMAN.

THE CUCKOO

News and Gossip of the day.

VOL. I.—No 15. MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1881. ONE PENNY.

MANAGER'S NOTICE.

Can be had of all Newsvendors, and at all Railway Stations.

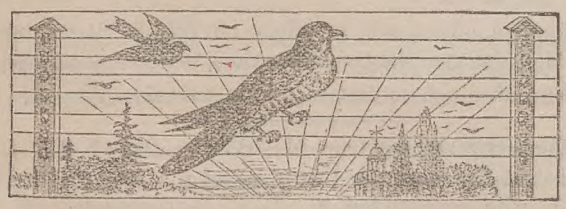
THE CUCKOO can be sent by book post at the minimum postal rate of ONE HALFPENNY.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
(INCLUDING POSTAGE, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.)

Three Months	0 9 6
Six Months	0 19 6
Twelve Months	1 19 0

Post-Office Orders should be sent to Mr. FREDERICK EVANS, at 1, York Street, Covent Garden, W.C.; and made payable at the General Post-Office, London, E.C. Cheques to be crossed Ransom, Bouverie, & Co., 1, Pall Mall East.

N. V. B.—*Editor's Office (to which all literary contributions for* THE CUCKOO *should be addressed), 97, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. Advertisers will please address H. Freeman, 86, Fleet Street, E.C. Publishing Office, 1, York Street, Covent Garden, W.C.*



News from Abroad.

The remains of the late Czar were interred yesterday. The new Czar makes great promises of "reform." Loris Melikoff is very anxious to reform. Such are the results of the bomb on the Catharine Bridge.

Diamonds and jewellery to the value of 25,000 francs have been stolen from the house of the Grand Duke Nicholas during his absence from Nice, at St. Petersburg. This is a new phase of Nihilism.

Germany, for reasons of her own, has retired from the initiative in the Turko-Greek embroglio. She has already gone far enough, and now withdraws, leaving the onus of disturbing the world's peace upon England.

America is not going to be beaten by the Boers in her consideration and forbearance towards the decrepid and ridiculous old Empire of England. We are to be permitted to settle the Fisheries Dispute on American terms, at American dictation, and our kin across sea promise to say no more about the matter, and to let bygones be bygones.

No invitation has been sent to the British Government to take part in the forthcoming centenary of the surrender of Cornwallis—the crowning incident of the American War of Independence.

Further particulars as to the catastrophe at Nice show that after all there were four English people among those who were destroyed—Eliza Kennedy, aged 17; Catherine Kennedy, aged 18: their brother, James Kennedy, 25: and a Mrs. Maguoy. The remains of all three bodies have been identified: but the young man's body has not yet been recovered. The three Kennedy's, it will be a matter of profound regret for the public in this country to learn, are the children of the eminent Scotch vocalist, Mr. David Kennedy, of Edinburgh, "Kate" and "Lizzie," had but recently made their *debût* as singers, with brilliant prospect of future success in the concert-room.

Toleration seems to be in the ascendant in Spain—at least, so I infer from the action of the Ministry in liberating a Protestant pastor imprisoned at Canovas for holding public prayer-meetings in Catalonia, and from their firm declaration to the Nuncio that this tolerant attitude is in no way opposed to the letter or spirit of the Concordat.

The French Government contemplate a loan of forty-five million francs for the colonisation of Algeria. It is proposed to establish three hundred new villages, with the idea of making each a new centre of civilisation.

News from the Country.

Thames anglers have good reason to speak well of their own "Preservation Society," for it has certainly done great things for the fishing of the river. Among the schemes employed for procuring stock is the netting of various waters, such as the ponds in Bushey, and the Home-park, the lake at Kew, the Barnes reservoir, the lakes at Sevenoaks, Osterley Park, and Gustave Close, besides dragging portions of the Avon and other rivers, small affluents and backwaters after subsidence of floods, and so forth.

As to the results, the professional fishermen of the Thames are in the best of spirits, and the *Fishing Gazette* has certainly reason for its congratulations.

Mr. Arthur Brassey's election to the Carlton Club has given great satisfaction at Hastings and St. Leonards.

Those seeking a change of air cannot do better than try Hastings or St. Leonards. The weather there is nearly perfect.

Cheltenham news of the week, though not very exciting, is plentiful. Miss Sarah Thorne's pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, has been produced at the Old Wells Theatre with some success. The Fine Art Society have completed their inaugural drawing of prizes, the first prize falling to Miss Skinner. Cheltonians have during the week had the welcome opportunity of hearing Ap Thomas, the talented harpist. A movement is on foot for holding an open lawn tennis championship meeting during Easter week, when prizes to the value of over £80 will be awarded.

A somewhat curious verdict was returned by a coroner's jury at Crondall, near Guildhall, the other day. A sergeant of Hussars had shot himself through the head, and the question put to the twelve gentleman called together to inquire into the circumstances was whether the deceased had committed *felo de se*, or whether a more charitable view might be taken.

Considerable difficulty was experienced owing to the strong opinion entertained by one of the twelve in favour of the sterner presentment; but ultimately a compromise was arrived at, the jury finding the novel verdict that deceased committed suicide, but that the "evidence as to the state of his mind was in confliction."

A new coach is to run between Brighton and Portsmouth during the coming summer.

All trains on the Southern railways run on Good Friday as on Sundays, but special arrangements will be made for Easter week and the Review.

Surely nothing to get savage about? We said in a recent issue that Mr. W. D. Savage was a candidate for the vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Brighton Aquarium. The Board of Directors of the Brighton Aquarium now say he isn't, and could not be. Why not, pray?

We see the second of May is named for the opening of the Dover and Deal Railway.

His Grace the Duke of Bedford is appreciated on his Tavistock estate, and not without good reason. His latest benevolence is building 400 cottages for the benefit of the working classes.

Cambridge cannot acquiesce gracefully in the triumph of the ladies. Having been handsomely beaten at the poll, the University now pretends that the polling was illegal, and a memorial has been sent in to the Vice-Chancellor praying for a thorough inquiry.

The residence of Sir Richard Gilpin, Bart., at Hockliffe-grange, Leighton Buzzard, was broken into on Friday night and a quantity of plate stolen. It is presumed that the thieves desired to get possession of the loving cup presented to Sir Richard Gilpin by the magistracy and public of Beds, but they did not succeed in finding it.

Edinburgh rejoices in a lady who has been before the Bench 140 times. She is 40 years of age, and is described as looking decrepit. Now, if it is assumed that the lady in question first entered into intimate relations with the police at 20 years of age, she will since then have been in the dock an average of 7 times a-year, or, in other words, she will have presented herself, on an average, once in every 7 weeks for 20 years.

The last echo of the murderer's shot. The residence and estate of the late Lord Mountmorres at Clonbur, were on Saturday ordered by the Master of the Rolls to be let for twelve months, and the furniture sold.

News of Town.

Gossip of the Lobby.

A Cabinet Council was held on Saturday, at two o'clock, at the official residence of the Prime Minister, all the members of the Cabinet being present, and the sitting lasting over four hours.

Foreign affairs are pressing, no doubt. But internal troubles also give the Cabinet serious matter for discussion.

The Birmingham dictatorship is becoming irksome.

Conservatives will run Mr. Charles Campbell-Ross, a banker at Penzance, in the place of the late Sir Charles Reed, who represented St. Ives, in Cornwall. A Mr. Chester, a barrister, may possibly put himself up as a second Conservative candidate. Mr. Waddy, Q.C., is spoken of as the Liberal candidate.

The Biennial Banquet of the Middlesex Conservative Registration Association is to be held at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, the 27th of April, at half-past six o'clock in the evening. Besides the two members for the county, the Marquis of Salisbury and other leading members of the party have promised to be present.

Middlesex is fortunate in having so popular and capable a secretary as Mr. Wollaston-Pym. Mr. Pym knows the value of looking to the Register, and he has won the respect

of both parties by his efficient organisation. He is only equalled by Mr. T. Lennox-Irwin, the active and sagacious secretary of the Westminster Conservative Registration Association.

To think of a Radical change in the constitution of the most Conservative of Tory Clubs. "From a time beyond which the memory of Lord Beaconsfield runneth not to the contrary, the Carlton has been distinctly inhospitable. A member may take in his walking-stick, but he must not take in his friend. He may dine, but he can only dine with members; or if he brings a friend, that friend must be hurried from room to room, like a marble in a roulette-wheel. It is proposed to change this arrangement, and the committee have the question before them.

"The original building will, of course, remain inviolate. The Carlton proper will retain its insularity. Members will be requested to protect what is intended for their own selfish enjoyment. *Lasciate ogni straniera voi che entrate* will be the Dantesque motto that will guard its august portals from intrusion by an unballoted stranger. But at a convenient distance is situated the mansion of the late Lady Waldegrave, and what the committee have now to decide upon is whether they will purchase that dwelling-house and devote it to the purposes of a hospitality which has paid no entrance fee. The committee are by no means unanimous as to the concession to popular prejudice." A Radical improvement in a Conservative Club is not a thing to be lightly entered upon.

Whether it is that the habitual thirst of M.P.'s renders the waiters unable to attend to outsiders, or whether it is that members and strangers together put too heavy a strain upon the waiters, I know not, but whatever may be the reason, certain it is that Mr. Shaw Lefevre has arrived at the conclusion that strangers are to be excluded from the refreshment bar of the House of Commons.

A new refreshment bar is to be erected at the foot of the staircase for the convenience of visitors. Rumour has it that a number of Temperance members are making strenuous efforts to limit the accommodation to teetotal beverages.

Whilst reserving its opinion on this latter point, Cuckoo would suggest that it would be better if these gentlemen would leave strangers alone till a more convenient season, confining themselves for the present nearer home.

It is announced that Earl Percy has now joined the Fourth Party. His lordship is said to have already distinguished himself as the dullest member of the "organisation"

Mr. Bradlaugh, the half-member for Northampton, is as a fire-tailed fox in the cornfields of the Conservatives.

At Northampton, on Saturday, before a crowded audience, he set ablaze about a dozen different serious subjects, condemned perpetual pensions to immediate perdition, defied both Church and State to unseat him, threatened England with instant revolution if the land laws were not reformed, and set forth the Radicals as the Coming Race.

Mr. Bradlaugh boasts that he got some enormous number of signatures to his memorials against perpetual pensions. So he may. But he got also an enormous number of readers for his filthy "Fruits of Philosophy," and probably from the same class.

Several Scotch members are urging on Government the advisability of appointing Dr. James Taylor, who acted as Secretary to the Scotch Board of Education to the same office under the Executive Commission which will be appointed when the Educational Endowments Act is passed. The Rev. F. L. Robertson, of Glasgow, who was here recently on a deputation in connection with the Bill, and Principal Tulloch, of St. Andrew's (if his health permits), may be appointed members of the Commission.

In the division on the Candahar motion, on Monday night, the following Liberals voted against the Government: Mr. Bellingham, Mr. Cowen, Sir John Ennis, Mr. C. W. Fitzwilliam, Mr. O'Donnell, the Marquis of Stafford, and Sir Edward Watkin. No Conservatives voted with the Government, but nearly all the Home Rule members supported the Ministry.

It is a pity the Home Rulers cannot be depended upon in anything. In the present case they voted, of course, with the Ministry out of pure hatred for England, and a wish to see the Empire damaged as much and as speedily as possible.

Mr. Pender, the member for Wick, it is rumoured, will receive a baronetcy. Did the rumour arise from some one saying that Mr. Pender would *like to receive* one?

Another report is to hand from the Election Commissioners, and again we are told a story of wholesale corruption. It is stated that out of 4,904 who recorded their votes, 2,756 did so corruptly. The bribers numbered 280, including three magistrates, three aldermen, fifteen town councillors, one Conservative agent, two members of the School Board, several poor-law guardians, and three lay cathedral clerks.

The Services.

It is currently reported in the Service Clubs (so says the *Army and Navy Gazette*) that the incapacity of the commanding officers of certain regiments is the reason why those regiments have not proceeded to the Transvaal. Whether this be so or no, it is notorious that there are certain officers in command whose incapacity is only equalled by the good-nature of the authorities in retaining them.

Among the regiments referred to, is there one of Hussars?

Englishmen have fallen of late into the ugly habit of suspecting misbehaviour among the soldiers whenever a defeat occurs. The conduct of the Zulu war was, of course, in such incompetent hands that demoralisation was almost natural. But there was no timidity in the officers commanding in Afghanistan or the Transvaal, and yet we have our Maiwand court-martials, and evil Majuba rumours.

But the 3-60th behaved so gallantly at the Ingogo, as the column order published by General Colley abundantly proves, that it is not possible—apart from the fact of their being the 3-60th—they could have shirked their work a week later at Colley's last fatal hill.

To-morrow Mr. Thomas Brassey, M.P., will distribute the prizes to the Liverpool Brigade of the Royal Navy Artillery Volunteers.

As an answer to the questions that were to have been

put in the House to-night by Sir R. Cross, we are able to publish the following :—

Summary punishment has been defined to mean either putting a delinquent in irons, making him carry heavy weights, or fastening him to some vehicle or animal on the march, so as to force him to move forward at a walking pace. These penalties may be inflicted any number of times, no one sentence exceeding fourteen days, and never being inflicted for more than three consecutive days. It is stipulated that none of these punishments shall be inflicted so as to cause injury to health, or leave permanent marks upon the person, and officers are enjoined to exercise great caution in this particular.

Woolwich will soon be busier than ever. The Naval Estimates for the coming year include the introduction of breech-loading guns in place of the muzzle-loading 64-pounders.

In the Army Estimates—the revised sheets of which are now being published—the increased rates of pay proposed for the non-commissioned officers are shown. In the higher grades the advance is substantial.

A return just published shows the following distribution among the public and other schools of the successful candidates at the entrance examinations for the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich from July, 1875, to December, 1879. Cheltenham College stands first with 61 successful candidates; Wellington College, 38; Eton, Marlborough, and Clifton, 23 each; Charterhouse, 19; Harrow, 15; Winchester, 12; King's College, 5; United Service College, Westward Ho and Repton, 4 each; Oxford Military College, 2; Royal Naval School, 2; London University College, 1; Trinity College, Dublin, 1; Christ's Hospital, 1; Rugby, 1; private, foreign, and other schools, 284.

Cheltenham, of course, stands first, for the reason that at that school a boy, as soon as he has chosen his profession in life, is educated for that, and that only. At other schools the old system of general education for everything still holds good, to the detriment of the scholars.

Wellington College and its affairs have been overhauled by a special committee. The report proves how very urgently the overhauling was necessary.

Foundationers' interests in this school are something more substantial than in other public schools. But they would have been lost sight of very soon if the committee had not dragged them up by the hair of the head just as they were sinking.

The Irish war must be abating in severity. We see some of the troops on duty there are under orders to return. Those of our readers who are nursemaids will be glad to learn that "the Household Troops" are among the number.

This year's Easter Monday Review at Brighton will take place entirely to the west of Newmarket Hill, and the attack will be made by a force under the command of Major-General Higginson, C.B., commanding the Home District, his line extending from Newmarket thicket on the left, with Palmer in the rear. The defending force, under Major-General Earle, will face line to line, also running nearly due east and west, and formed in front of Upper Bevendean.

The Cuckoo has taken a long time reaching Cheshire. It was only heard there for the first time on Thursday. "A little husky, perhaps," says the writer, "but as enchanting as ever." Husky, indeed!

Courts and Courtiers.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice, the Prince Alfred and the Princess Marie of Edinburgh attended Divine service in the private chapel yesterday morning, where a special prayer was offered up on the occasion of the funeral of the late Emperor Alexander II. of Russia, which took place this morning at St. Petersburg.

A portion of the choir of St. George's Chapel was in attendance, and sang the following hymns and anthem :—

Hymn 464 (Verses 1, 6, 7).

"Beneath our feet and o'er our head."

Anthem.

"The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seem to die: but they are in peace."

Luther's Hymn.

The Bishop of Peterborough preached the sermon.

Our surmise of Wednesday that the Princess Beatrice might be going to be married, seeing that Her Majesty was about to purchase the estate of Stoke, mansion and all, has been taken up by our contemporaries, and their opinion is that "there is something in it."

It is evident that Her Majesty cannot want Stoke for herself—and it is equally evident that Her Majesty would would not pay £250,000 for an estate and house on it, if she did not want it—for somebody else.

Stoke Park is an enviable place. Nearly within its bounds stands Stoke Pogis old church and the quiet graveyard immortalised by Gray in his famous "Elegy." Adjoining the park are the now well-known Burnham Beeches, and near is the ruined Abbey of Burnham, the lands of which were formerly leased to an ancestor of Sir Charles Dilke. Not far from Stoke-park is Beaconsfield, a name now so well-known in the village. One house is famous historically, and that is "East Burnham Cottage," for here resided Richard Brinsley Sheridan, that erratic genius, and afterwards a man of a very different stamp, the historian Grote, and here he wrote his "History of Greece."

Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold were present at a special Lenten service at the Chapel, Eton College, yesterday afternoon, where portions of Bach's Passion music were performed.

Prince Leopold, attended by the Hon. Alexander Yorke, left Windsor at 10.30 last night for London.

The Marquis of Hartington (the Secretary of State for India) and the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, arrived at the Castle yesterday, and had the honour of dining with Her Majesty and the Royal family.

Ladies purposing to attend Her Majesty's Drawing-room to-morrow, are officially reminded that though grey or white are within the regulations of Court mourning, violet and mauve are not.

But would ladies ever suppose that mauve was?

On Saturday morning the Empress of Austria, accompanied by Countess Festétiés, Prince Lichtenstein, Baron Nopsea, Lord Longford, Count Kinsey, and others of her suite, visited Chester, arriving by special train from Whitchurch; and after a drive round the city, proceeded to Eaton Hall, where the party was entertained at luncheon by Earl and Countess Grosvenor, the Duke of Westminster being absent. The visit had been kept secret, but her Majesty was recognised by many while in Chester.

Lady Combermere, the Hon. Mrs. Hunter, Lady Sophia and Miss Tower, Lady Victoria Long Wellesley have left Hastings for town.

Sir Baldwin and Lady Leighton have arrived at St Leonard's.

One of the funniest things, to Anglo-Indian notions at any rate, that has appeared for some time, is in this week's number of that admirable paper the *Lady's Pictorial*. It asks its readers to pause "for a moment and think on Lord and Lady Lytton." "The handsome lady of the house of Villiers," as Lady Lytton is called, is "certainly affable in society, yet in India there was a kind of cold stateliness about her that was, however, very popular with the Indian princes." How *did* the Indian princes show that they liked it? Their chief recollection of her ladyship, probably, is that, for the first time in Oriental history, "a mere wife" took a leading part in an imperial assemblage.

Lord Lytton, we further read, was "equally familiar with all the grand rajahs." Familiar! The Viceroy of India is the autocrat of India, and cats might as well be said to be familiar with mice as governor-generals with native princes. It is true Lord Lytton *was* a trifle familar, and the grand rajahs hated it.

It is not etiquette in the East for the greater to be familiar with the less.

Nor when Lord Lytton was so very kind to a small princeling at Delhi, were his royal parents over-pleased. On the contrary, they had to pay handsomely to have their offspring disinfected of the kindly-meant embrace.

His Excellency the Chinese Ambassador, accompanied by his suite, paid a long visit of investigation to the Silvertown Cable Manufactory. Impassive though his bearing ordinarily is, he evidenced more than once the keen interest with which he went through the establishment.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught left Bagshot Park on Saturday for London, in order to attend Service, which was held on Sunday in the Russian Chapel, in memory of the late Emperor Alexander II.

It is understood that the Crown Princess of Prussia has abandoned her project of visiting England.

The Prince and Princess Christian will leave Berlin to-day on their return to England.

Their Royal Highnesses the Grand Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz and suite arrived in London last evening from the continent.

Saturday was the 62nd birthday of the Duke of Cambridge. He was born on the 26th of March, 1819.

The Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and family will, according to present arrangements, reach England from Madeira about the 15th of April. Lord and Lady Carnarvon have much benefited in health by their stay at Madeira.

The Earl of Beaconsfield has not yet sufficiently recovered to permit of his leaving his residence. He is able to transact business, but upon the advice of his medical attendant, Dr. Kidd, he will probably remain within doors for some few days to come.

The Prime Minister and a small party dined with the Poet Laureate on Saturday at his residence in Upper Belgrave-street.

Colonel Forester, the Deputy Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms to the House of Commons, who has for the last three weeks been suffering from a severe attack of sciatica, which has caused great anxiety to his friends, was stated yesterday to be somewhat better, although still unable to leave his bed.

Mr. Caulfield and Lady Alan Churchill have left Brown's Hotel for Paris.

A dinner in aid of the funds of the Princess Mary Village Homes will take place on Thursday next, at Willis's-rooms, when the chair will be taken by his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

The Empress of Austria arrives in London to-day.

Sir H. Rumbold, Bart., succeeds the Hon. E. Erskine, C.B., as minister at Stockholm.

The Hon. H. Vivian, Sir Hervey Bruce, Col. Whingates, R.H.A., Mr. Thompson, M.P., Capt. C. T. Peyton (106th Regiment), Capt. Geo. Joy, and Capt. and Mrs. Boyse, have left Kingstown for this country; Capt. Pennefather (4th Hussars) has arrived at Kingstown from this country.

Law and Police.

It seems almost absurd to have to record the fact that a muffin-man figured on Saturday as a co-respondent. But it is the fact, nevertheless, and "Joe, the muffin-man," as he was called, though his real name is Thomas, was made to pay the costs. A muffin man!

Lord Penzance is really too courteous. He "supposed" on Saturday that, if the House of Lords rejected the Rev. R. Enraght's appeal against the authority of the Arches Court, that gentleman would then, perhaps, obey the law. But why suppose this? All precedents of Ritualist obstruction are dead against so charitable a presumption.

A white slave-holder, one Hayes, a leather purse maker, was punished on Saturday on ten summonses for overworking girls in contravention of the Factory Act. From eight in the morning to half-past four in the afternoon (on a Saturday, too), and no time allowed for meals, reads to us little better than Uncle Tom's experiences in the tobacco plantations.

Summonses for perjury against certain witnesses in the Dunbar divorce case constitute a new phase of that discreditable exhibition. The Archdeacon, accompanied by Mr. Foote, were in the Westminster Court again on Saturday.

The Spring Assizes.—The following are the circuits chosen by the Judges for the ensuing Spring assizes:—Midland Circuit—Mr. Justice Lopes; Western—Mr. Justice Manisty; South-Eastern, Mr. Justice Hawkins; North-Eastern—Mr. Justice Stephen; Northern—Mr. Justice Watkin Williams and Mr. Justice Mathew: and North and South Wales Circuits, Mr. Justice Cave.

Gossip of Town.

A correspondent, writing to us before the subjoined letter was published, said, "You were quite right to refer so pointedly on Saturday to the Premier's sad lapse of memory in contradicting Mr. Edwin Arnold as to the length of that interview at the *D. T.* office between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Lawson. The point was an important one; and, moreover, the extraordinary gift of memory which Mr. Edwin Arnold possesses made me think it *physically impossible* that he could have been wrong.

"Mr. Arnold, I am told, put on his thinking cap as soon as Mr. Gladstone had given his evidence, and then and there began to write out, in the exact order in which they were discussed, all the topics of conversation of that meeting five years ago, showing that from the quotations from Virgil alone which were then bandied between himself and the Premier, that the interview must have lasted considerably more than Mr. Gladstone's 'fifteen minutes.'

This *proces verbal* of the dead old conversation, Mr. Arnold gave to the Premier, and as the ghosts of that talk, the dry bones of its wit and wisdom, grew up in convincing array from the written page, Mr. Gladstone fairly gave way in admiration of the feat of memory and regret for the contradiction he had so rashly given."

We are very glad to publish, in confirmation of our opinion that the Premier's memory must have betrayed him when he contradicted Mr. Edwin Arnold as to the duration of their interview in 1876, the following letter:—

"'*THE QUEEN v. LABOUCHERE AND WYMAN.*'

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'DAILY TELEGRAPH.'

"SIR,—Mr. Gladstone, in an interview kindly accorded to me this morning, when I brought to his recollection certain forgotten topics spoken of between him and Mr. Edward Lawson with myself, at our meeting in the office of the *Daily Telegraph* in 1876, permits me to say publicly, on the subject of the duration of that meeting, that 'he spoke from recollection only, and, as this recollection is negative rather than positive, it has no claim to be taken in preference to my own, which was of a positive character.'—I am, Sir, yours very obediently,

"EDWIN ARNOLD.

"The *Daily Telegraph* Office, Saturday, March 26."

It is a painful fact that at the recent examination at Cambridge for the degree of Doctor of Music the examiners, Professor Macfarren, Dr. Joseph Joachim, and Mr. E. Prout, have had to announce that none of the candidates could be approved.

Westminster objects to the state of St. Margaret's Churchyard, and yesterday at the meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, the feelings and wishes of the inhabitants were strongly advocated by Canon Farrar. The Works Committee are to consider the matter.

With the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair Exeter Hall reopens to-morrow as the headquarters of the Young Men's Christian Association.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Cairns, and the Lord Mayor, are among the magnates who will "support" the noble and philanthropic chairman.

The chair is taken at seven, but a Prayer Meeting will be held in the Lower Hall from four to five, at which Mr. G. Williams will preside.

Four times during the week the *Times* newspaper has failed to catch the morning train. Each such failure costs the *Times* £40, the price of a special train.

Yet the *Times* uses the composing machine.

Give it up, Mr. Macdonald, give it up. It costs you exactly double what you would have to pay for flesh and blood compositors, and loses you the morning train besides.

But it is not only in losing trains that the *Times* under its new *régime* has become conspicuous. It is losing also its old tradition of always keeping the same staff together. And the *Times* cannot afford to lose any of its remaining ability.

A very large proportion of its composing staff are leaving, while those that remain are not over well contented with having sixteen hours' work a day, and being fined in addition if they do not keep to their Times.

JUGGED JOURNALISTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CUCKOO.—My Dear Sir,—It is very funny to note how Mr. James Mortimer scantly describes me as "just out of gaol," while he applies to himself, bless you, the elegantly flowing periphrasis of having "had the honour of being the Queen's guest at Holloway Castle." I need hardly remind *you* that the honour (?) in each case was equally compulsory. And if contemporary testimony goes for anything, Mr. James Mortimer did not wear his Royal honours so very lightly as his jaunty letter to you, roseate in its reminiscences, would appear to indicate. A distance of twelve months has obviously lent considerable enchantment to his view of the prison life.

But Mr. James Mortimer was much better off than I was, because his incarceration occurred, I believe, before the present Prisons Act came into force, and, in any case, there are in Holloway Gaol petty rules perpetually being issued the whole tendency of these new orders being towards a greater restrictiveness. Yet I fancied Mr. James Mortimer, despite his superior advantages, was a safe authority for a reference, because I remembered to have seen the opening portions of his diary in gaol, which appeared in his own paper, and any more lugubriously lachrymose lucubrations I have never read.

I also had a notion, so comfortable was Mr. James Mortimer in his Queen's Castle, that he caused to be presented to Her Majesty's Home Secretary a very pressing and an extensively-signed petition for his release. I may be wrong, yet I had the further idea that the prayer of this petition, much to Mr. James Mortimer's mortification, being refused, he ultimately speeded his departure as a guest in the castellated abode by getting out eleven days before his time on the plea of ophthalmia—or something of that sort.

I should be the last man in the world to complain of Colonel Milman personally. Nor did I do so in my letter. Alike in my illness, and during a period when he knew me to be under the intensest mental anxiety, he was considerate to the last degree, within the limits of his duty. He even extended courtesies to me and mine after I had passed from his custody. But Colonel Milman is the administrator, not the responsible author of the system he administers. So far as ordinary first-class misdemeanants are concerned, that system is, in my opinion, much too severe for the requirements of justice.

As to the present warders—I shall say nothing of their "Chief"—they are good fellows, and as kind as they dare be. They have a long imprisonment themselves, and it is impossible not to respect and appreciate the manner they have of fulfilling their disagreeable duties.

I have "sat under" a good many eccentric clergymen in my own country and elsewhere, but it was reserved for

Holloway to afford me the greatest exhibition of pulpit self-sufficiency I have ever encountered.

No doubt Mr. James Mortimer thinks it a rare bit of original humour to associate whisky with a Scotchman; yet, strange to say, I had to drop even my modest pint of beer by medical advice, and my experience is that one does best to resign his liquor with his liberty. The life is extremely sedentary, and an equable temperament is, under the circumstances, best preserved by an absence of stimulants.

I am, &c.,
"YOUR OTHER CORRESPONDENT."
26th March, 1881.

Fires in Theatres.—It is possible that the terrible fate of the Opera House at Nice may make London playgoers nervous about fire. I have some experience of the interior of our playhouses, and am confident that few of them are as safe, in case of panic, as they might easily be made. Under the circumstances, we think the Lord Chamberlain ought to be urged to insist immediately upon every house having at least one exit on each side of the stalls. The system of making people pass right across the stalls to get into the corridors ought not to be allowed for another day.

Unfortunately the custom of insuring tends to render proprietors of theatres indifferent on this point. The rule is for the tenant to insure over and above his rent. Some lessees pay £400 or £500 a year in premiums. A common rate is £50 per cent., which means that actuaries do not consider that theatres go on an average more than forty years without being entirely destroyed by fire.

Mr. Hollingshead has somewhere asserted that in all the numerous fires in our theatres no spectators ever lost their lives—with the single exception of one old lady. Even she had made her escape once; but she would go back to her seat in the pit to pick up what the charitably-disposed describe as her "smelling bottle." Deaths through panics, whether upon a cry of fire or otherwise, are, of course, a different thing. I suppose Mr. Hollingshead would admit that a great catastrophe is at least possible. We have now three times as many theatres as we had, and therefore just three times as many chances of such a scene as was enacting at Nice on Thursday night.

When Covent-Garden was last burnt down, a great calamity was only just avoided. There had been a masked ball that night, which was still going on. Luckily it was then so late that the revellers had dwindled to a mere handful, who were thus able to get out quickly.

I know that Mr. Ponsonby-Fane holds that there is no real danger in any of our theatres except that arising from panic. I wish I could agree with him. Once a year that gentleman makes a personal inspection of all the theatres, for his functions as representative of the Lord Chamberlain's office do not end with approving the architect's plans. Only the other day, for example, he ordered a wall to be built for further security against fire at the Connaught theatre.

But I think he is too apt to be satisfied if there are sufficient exits to new houses, while he contents himself with a rather indulgent attitude towards old houses with a sort of vested right of being dangerous up to a point. Exits into the street are not the only things to consider. I know a house, for example, where in case of an alarm the whole audience in stalls, pit, and dress circle, would be instantly making for one narrow doorway.

I have seen a private letter of Mr. Ponsonby-Fane, in which he defends the arrangements of this house because it has three exits into one street and one into each of two other streets. These numerous exits do not unhappily comfort me much when I sit in the stalls there and think of a panic; for I know I should have in the first place to try and get through the narrow door, which I should be pretty certain not to do.

Mr. Ponsonby-Fane has cognisance of the arrangements of all London theatres except the Court.

The Court is excepted for an odd reason. The Act limits the Lord Chamberlain's power to the Metropolitan boroughs. But the Court Theatre is in the borough of Chelsea, which had no political existence when the Act was passed. Curiously enough, it is just outside the borough of Westminster, and, therefore, only beyond the Lord Chamberlain's reach by half-a-dozen yards.

The following is a list of theatres destroyed by fire up to 1875.

Of theatres merely damaged, but not destroyed, it is impossible to give an estimate.

Year.	Place.	Name of Theatre.
1672	London... ...	Theatre Royal (now called Drury Lane). 1st fire.
1789	London... ...	Opera House (now Her Majesty's Theatre). 1st fire.
1789	Manchester ...	Manchester Theatre.
1792	Falmouth ...	Falmouth Theatre.
1792	London... ...	Pantheon.
1794	London... ...	Astley's Amphitheatre. 1st fire.
1803	London... ...	Astley's Amphitheatre. 2nd fire.
1805	London... ...	Circus (now Surrey Theatre). 1st fire.
1808	London... ...	Covent Garden Theatre. 1st fire.
1809	London... ...	Theatre Royal (now called Drury Lane). 2nd fire.
1826	London... ...	Royalty Theatre, Wellclose-sq.
1829	Glasgow ...	Theatre Royal.
1830	London... ...	English Opera House (now Lyceum Theatre).
1830	London... ...	Astley's Amphitheatre. 3rd fire.
1830	London... ...	Amphitheatre Argyle Rooms.
1839	Cheltenham ...	Cheltenham Theatre.
1839	Glasgow ...	Batty's Theatre.
1841	London... ...	Astley's Amphitheatre. 4th fire.
1842	Glasgow ...	Cook's Circus. 1st fire.
1844	Manchester ...	Theatre Royal.
1845	Glasgow ...	City Theatre.
1845	Glasgow ...	Cook's Circus. 2nd fire.
1846	London... ...	Garrick Theatre.
1848	Glasgow ...	Adelphi Theatre.
1849	London... ...	Olympic Theatre.
1853	Edinburgh ...	Adelphi Theatre.
1853	London... ...	Islington Fields Circus.
1856	London... ...	Pavilion Theatre, Whitechapel.
1856	London... ...	Covent-garden Theatre. 2nd fire.
1859	Hull	Theatre Royal. 1st fire.
1862	Bath	Bath Theatre.
1863	Plymouth ...	Plymouth Theatre.
1863	Glasgow... ...	Glasgow Theatre. 2nd fire.
1865	Edinburgh ...	Royal Theatre.
1865	London... ...	Surrey Theatre. 2nd fire.
1865	Sheffield ...	Theatre Royal.
1866	London... ...	Standard Theatre.
1867	London... ...	Her Majesty's Theatre Haymarket. 2nd fire.
1869	Glasgow ...	Prince of Wales's Theatre.
1869	Hull	Hull Theatre. 2nd fire.
1869	Durham ...	Durham Theatre.
1870	Glasgow ...	Alexandra Theatre.
1875	Edinburgh ...	Theatre Royal,
1875	Leeds	Theatre Royal.
1875	Edinburgh ...	Southminster Theatre.

Outrages have been very slack during the last few days. Nothing has been done in pistols, and gunpowder-boxes have been dull. Irish crime is brisk, though, and threatening letters are looking up.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, we are glad to hear, has recovered from his shock completely, and now eats heartily again.

The Lord Mayor, too, is doing as well as could be expected, and all fears of a relapse are now at an end.

Tall women, looking as if they had gunpowder about them, are still being diligently followed up by the police; but as yet without any success. The tallest constables of the force are told off for this exhilarating pastime, all except the Mansion House Midget, who still retains his old post.

With regard to the determined attempt upon the Home Secretary, a correspondent furnishes us with a clue which may be useful. "Calling upon the —— in Notting-hill, I saw the youngest boy playing with a weapon *precisely similar* to that which so nearly exploded in Sir William Vernon Harcourt's hands. It had no hammer on it, and it was being loaded *with exactly* the same materials." Let the police find out who taught that boy to do this, and they may have a clue to the desperado now wanted.

There is no doubt of it that the members of Parliament who have made the sanitary condition of Government offices a public question have not made too much of it.

Sanitation, practically, does not exist in them, and if Government permits them to remain in their present unwholesome condition Government should be liable at law just as ordinary householders would be. Indeed, if death were to occur from the gross neglect of sanitation that now obtains Government *would* be liable at law.

It is not a question of cost, but of public necessity.

The War Office is better than the rest, and Somerset House, probably, worse than any.

Sir R. Cross said that he had found when he was at the Home Office that he suffered from severe headaches; so, probably, does Sir William Vernon Harcourt, but we do not think Home Secretaries have any right to import their own headaches into the matter.

It is much more to the point that Home Office clerks refused to go to the new offices on account of their disgraceful condition, and that it was in contemplation among the heads of departments to take lodgings in the neighbourhood and charge the Treasury with the cost.

Why do not the gentlemen of Somerset House follow the hint let fall by Sir R. Cross, and refuse to go on working in the unhealthy underground rooms to which they are now confined all day, "and charge the Treasury with the cost" of taking lodgings "in the neighbourhood," say over the "Andalusia," or "Short's"? Or, at any rate, let them make a solemn league and threaten to do it.

Nothing, by the way, was said by the Members of Parliament, when discussing this important question, about memorials on the subject that had been burked by the authorities. The public would like to hear more about them none the less.

In the meanwhile, the drains in Whitehall are being cleaned out, and a very substantial vote of funds will soon be made for making all our great offices fit for men to work in.

A special meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Street Accidents and Dangerous Driving is to be held on Wednesday at the society's rooms in Pall Mall.

Van demons and reckless cabmen will be as interested as the respectable public to know that the society will "consider" at the meeting "the desirability of prosecuting for dangerous driving." They will also discuss the formation of a guarantee fund.

But the general public is puzzled to know why "consideration" as to prosecuting dangerous driving is thought necessary. How else can the society justify its name?

Talking of dangerous driving, a correspondent writes: "Will the Omnibus Company—the red Charing Cross omnibus—insist upon the driver of No. 375 being cautioned? On Saturday afternoon a hansom was coming along Archer-street behind an omnibus, which was apparently going straight along to the regular halting-place, a public-house in Archer-street, of which I forget the name. But just as the hansom got up to the omnibus, and was going to pass it, the driver of the latter suddenly whipped his horses round to the right, and as near as possible smashed up the hansom. As it was, there was a collision, but no accident, and a narrower thing I never saw. The omnibus driver, however, only said, sneeringly, to the cabman, 'Why d'yer drive so fast, eh?'

"Now, had there been an accident, and the fare in the hansom hurt, I would willingly have gone into the witness-box to swear that the whole fault was the omnibus driver's. He gave no sign that he was going to swerve so unexpectedly and apparently so irrationally."

Sir Charles Reed's remains will be removed to-morrow from his residence, Earlsmead, Page-green, Tottenham, to the Abney Park Cemetery, for interment. His grave is close to his father's, the Rev. Dr. A. Reed.

A very large gathering of colleagues and friends is expected.

Spiritualists in Court.—To-day the Fletcher case comes on for hearing at the Old Bailey. And in anticipation of this the Treasury has tacked on to the indictment against the defendants an additional count charging them under 9, George II., cap. 5, for that they

"Susan Willis Fletcher, John William Fletcher, and Francis Morton . . . unlawfully did pretend (to wit to the said Juliet Anne Theodora Heurtley Hart-Davies), to exercise and use divers kind of witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment, and conjuration, against the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace of our said Lady the Queen, her Crown and dignity."

What is thus referred to in the name of the reigning sovereign is an Act of Parliament expressly framed more than 150 years ago, for the abolition of prosecutions for witchcraft.

Thus runs the heading of the Act:—

IX George II., Chapter V, A.D. 1734.

"An Act to repeal the Statute made in the First Year of the Reign of King *James* the First, intituled an '*An Act against Conjuration, Witchcraft, and dealing with evil and wicked Spirits*,' except so much thereof as repeals an Act of the Fifth Year of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, '*Against Conjurations, Inchantments, and Witchcrafts*,' and to repeal an Act passed in the Parliament of *Scotland* in the Ninth Parliament of Queen *Mary*, intituled '*Anentis Witchcrafts*,' and for punishing such Persons as pretend to exercise or use any kind of Witchcraft, Sorcery, Inchantment, or Conjuration.

I read on, however, in the words of the Act itself:—

"Be it Enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by

and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Statute made in the First Year of the Reign of King *James* the First, intituled *An Act against Conjuration, Witchcraft, and dealing with evil and wicked Spirits*, shall, from the Twenty-fourth Day of June next, be repealed and utterly void, and of none effect (except so much thereof as repeals the Statute made in the Fifth Year of the reign of Queen *Elizabeth*), intituled, *An Act against Conjurations, Inchantments, and Witchcrafts.*"

Two other clauses follow, which formally endorse and confirm this repealment, the fourth and last clause of the new enactment, now more than a century and a-half old, subjecting to certain punishment such persons as may at any time afterwards be convicted of exercising or using any kind of witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment, or conjuration.

It is under the authority of this old-world Act that Susan Fletcher, John Fletcher, and Francis Morton are today arraigned in the name of our sovereign lady the Queen.

The Colonel's Gauntlet.—Sixteen years ago a particularly nice distinction was drawn at the Horse Guards in regard to Colonel Dawkins. A Court of Inquiry, composed of five distinguished generals, in 1865 pronounced his conduct in certain matters then under their consideration, unbefitting him as an officer but not as a gentleman.

Consequent upon this, Colonel Dawkins brought an action against one of his adjudicators (General Stephenson), and with him also against several other members of the club, to which they in common belonged—the Travellers. His so doing led at once to his expulsion from the club, and shortly afterwards his name was erased from the *Army List*.

Letters, since then, have from time to time dropped in upon General Stephenson, in one of which Colonel Dawkins informs him, within the compass of about nine lines, that he was "a liar," "a thief," "a coward," and "a cur." On the 17th of September, 1879, he received one of these communications, which was externally addressed to him as "Lieutenant-General Stephenson, liar, thief, and cur, Inverlochy Castle." Others came to him subsequently, one and all of them just as highly flavoured.

Finally, on Friday, the 18th inst., while walking along Grafton-street, General Stephenson was slapped on the cheek from behind by a glove brandished in the hand by Colonel Dawkins. Turning round upon the instant, he was apostrophised by his assailant in words as directly to the point as these, "You are a liar and a sneak!"

On Saturday, in consequence of this *fracas*, Colonel Dawkins was summoned before the magistrates at Marlborough-street, charged with assaulting General Frederick Stephenson, of No. 3, Bolton-row, Piccadilly.

Mr. George Lewis appeared to prosecute the defendant, who was represented in court by Mr. Montagu Williams.

Major-General Lord Abinger stated that having been consulted by General Stephenson, he had given him certain advice; while Mr. Gusford, the solicitor, testified to the letters produced being in Colonel Dawkins' handwriting.

In the event of the magistrate sending the case for trial, the counsel for the defendant intimated that his defence would be reserved.

Mr. Mansfield, almost as a matter of course, announced that it was his intention to send the case for trial, and added that, as it was not a trumpery one, he should send it to the Central Criminal Court on two bails in £100 each.

Providence gave William Whitebread health and strength, instead of which he goes about stealing ducks. The confiding bird was taking its exercise in a public street in Bath, when Mr. Whitebread struck it with a stick and then cut off its head. A witness of the murder had him arrested, but the criminal declared that he had bought the duck—a plea which was at once quashed by the policeman pointing out that ducks were not usually bought with their feathers on and their heads off.

In the City.

The Hungarian Six per Cent. Gold Rentes consist of 400,000,000 florins. To convert these into Fours, the Government will have to issue about 547 million Four per Cents. The annual interest charge is now 24 million florins; while the new issue, if successful, will require less than 22 millions. But is there any real gain? Hungary's debt will be increased by 147 million florins. Naturally enough, negotiators are pleased, as each small conversion means hundreds of thousands of pounds in their pocket; but it is exceedingly difficult to see where Hungary benefits.

Through the same insane policy our National Debt was nearly doubled, and this generation has to pay for the follies of its ancestry. Let Hungary wait until the natural decline in the value of money, or her increasing credit will enable her to float a four per cent. emission at or about par. One can see the sense of United States' refunding operations, as the interest charge was lowered without the debt being augmented; but this scheme seems moonshine madness.

We understand the issue will be gradual—80,000,000 florins to commence with; but the exact price is not yet fixed.

Nonsense by the bushel has been written about the panic in "Gasoland." The electric light will evidently be the luminary of the near future, but gas shareholders have not taken fright in the manner stated. What is there to holloa about? Since questionable eighty-one dawned Gas Light and Coke A Ordinary shares have declined from 177 to 170, while Brentford Consolidated are actually higher.

The experiments in street lighting by electricity in the City is to take effect on the evening of the 31st inst. The part which is to be illuminated comprises Blackfriars-bridge, New Bridge-street, Ludgate-circus, Ludgate-hill, St. Paul's-churchyard (north side), and Cheapside, as far as King-street.

The fall in railway stocks is much more noticeable.

On Saturday the first annual meeting of the shareholders of the Western District Co-operative Society was held at the company's premises, Alexander Rogers, Esq., chairman of the society, presiding. There was a large attendance. The balance-sheet showed a gross profit on the year of £4,288. After much discussion and explanation, the accounts and the directors' report were adopted, and it was further unanimously resolved to authorise the directors to issue debentures for £14,000 at 6 per cent. per annum, repayable in five years, for the purpose of extending the premises and paying off existing mortgages. A considerable amount was at once subscribed in the room, and the meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

The Day's Amusements.

Last Wednesday, our Oxford correspondent No. 2, in referring to Mr. Beverley being excluded from the Inter-'Varsity Quarter, decidedly fell into error, so says No. 1, when he mentioned that Mr. Beverley "last term defeated Mr. Smith, the *Amateur Athletic Champion*, at the same distance"—*i.e.*, 440 yards.

Mr. J. Henry Jewell, ex-secretary of the Amateur Athletic Club, points out the fact that since the amateur championships were established fifteen years ago, no gentleman of the name of Smith ever carried off the title of the Amateur 440-yards Champion, as a glance at the following list of champions at that distance will show: 1866-7, J. H. Ridley, Eton College; 1868-9, E. J. Colbeck, L.A.C. 1870-1, A. R. Upcher, C.U.A.C.; 1872, R. P. Philpot, C.U.A.C.; 1873, A. R. Upcher, C.U.A.C.; 1874, G. A. Templar, C.U.A.C.; 1875-6-7, F. T. Elborough, L.A.C.; 1878, J. Shearman, L.A.C.; 1879, E. Storey, C.U.A.C.; 1880, M. Shearman, O.U.A.C.

A Mr. A. S. Smith, of Birkenhead, certainly ran in last year's 440-yards Championship, but he did not even get placed in his preliminary heat. Mr. Beverley ran third to Montague Shearman in the first heat of the same event.

Apropos of the Amateur Championship, it was stated on Friday in THE CUCKOO columns that Mr. Myers, the American Champion, ran 350 yards in 29 1-5th secs. Of course, the time quoted should have been 39 1-5th secs.

In the Cambridge sports on Saturday R. H. Macaulay; is said to have won the quarter-mile race in 50 3-5 secs. This seems rather too good to be true, and I should recommend that it be taken *cum grano salis*. For the three mile race W. W. Hough, Corpus, proved an easy winner. His time, 16 min. 11 4-5 sec., is a good deal more than he could accomplish this distance in if hard pressed.

The attempt to create a walking record for 21 miles at Stamford Bridge, on Saturday, proved little short of a *fiasco* as both the scratch men, Coston and Sinclair, were disqualified before they had covered 3½ miles. Just as it should be. If records are to be reliable, let us have them fairly made, and no longer chronicle under the head of walking times that should, by the way they were achieved, be more properly classed as go-as-you-please feats.

It says but little, however, for the love of fairness, along with some knowledge of what constitutes walking, which should characterise members of the committee of the London Athletic Club, that certain of their number present in the enclosure on Saturday took upon themselves to jeer at the ruling of their duly appointed referees, who discharged their unpleasant duty with great judgment and fearlessness. This conduct, however, will decide what up to now has been an open question as to the existence of some "residuum" in this supposedly exclusive society.

An Amateur Athletic Championship Meeting will be held at the B. A. C. Grounds, Portland-road, Egbaston, Birmingham, and there is very little doubt that it will be heartily supported.

I hear the Metropolitan Regatta has been fixed for July 14. The course will be the usual one between Putney and Hammersmith.

For the Croydon Races to-morrow and Wednesday, the London, Brighton, and South Coast and South-Eastern Railways run special cheap trains.

Bromley Races: Thursday and Friday.

As fixed at present the University crews stand as follows:—

OXFORD.

		st.	lb.
Bow.	R. H. J. Poole (Brasenose)	10	9
2.	R. A. Pinckney (Exeter)	11	1
3.	A. R. Paterson (Trinity)	12	1
4.	E. Buck (Hertford)	11	8
5.	R. S. Kindersley (Exeter)	13	0
6.	D. E. Brown (Hertford)	12	4½
7.	J. H. T. Wharton (Magdalen)	11	8
Str.	L. R. West (New Inn Hall)	11	0
Cox.	E. H. Lyon (Hertford)	6	12

CAMBRIDGE.

		st.	lb.
Bow.	R. G. C. M. Gridley (Third Trinity) ...	10	12
2.	H. Sandford (Lady Margaret)	11	8
3.	J. A. Watson-Taylor (Magdalene)	12	3
4.	P. W. Atkin (Jesus)	12	0
5.	E. Lambert (Pembroke)	12	5
6.	M. Hutchinson (Jesus)	12	0
7.	C. W. Moore (Christ's)	11	12
Str.	E. C. Brooksbank (Trinity Hall)	11	7
Cox.	H. Woodhouse (Trinity Hall)	7	4

The Oxford crew took their farewell of the Cookham course on Saturday, when they did some long and satisfactory work under the surveillance of Mr. Edwards-Moss, who will most likely superintend their early practice at Putney, where they will row for the first time to-day. The men have left the pleasant reaches of Cookham and Marlow with a clean bill of health, their appetites having been all that could be desired during the past few days. The weights of the men were taken by Tims before their departure, from which we find that they average 11 st. 10 lbs. per man.

MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM.—If the Cambridge crew did the championship course in 21m. 12sec. on Saturday in rough weather, and the average of past years' races is over that, who ought to win the Boat Race, seeing that Oxford are favourites? The solution to be given on April 8.

I shall engage to say that there will be a pot of money sunk by outsiders over the City and Suburban. With such horses as Buchanan, Fernandez, Prestonpans, and Out of Bounds, under the same control, those not in the "know" are bound to get wrong. A very good rule to go by in cases of this kind for the uninitiated is to wait silent until a day or two before the start, then launch out on the particular horse that is in most demand. It was found to work admirably in some quarters with regard to Buchanan for the Lincoln Handicap, and may do so again.

The race meetings in progress this week are all minor affairs. Croydon takes place to-morrow and Wednesday; Croxton Park on Thursday; Burnley, Thursday and Friday; also North Thirsk on Thursday and Friday.

I gave you Free Flag as the greyhound that would be likely to win the Gosforth Gold Cup; but my prediction has not been verified, and for a very good reason. It seems that when the dog came to run off his final against Marshal MacMahon, although it seemed any odds on him, it was discovered that, through an internal injury, met with in a former course, he could not go a little bit, and so Marshal won. This, I hear, was a terrible pill for the money finders, as Free Flag carried all the procurable coin.

At a meeting of the North Shropshire and Shrewsbury Hunts, on Saturday, the resignation of Sir Vincent Corbet,

as Master of the North Shropshire Pack, was received, and Viscount Hill was appointed his successor. A resolution was passed amalgamating both packs, and it was understood they would be hunted three times a week, the south district subscribing £600 per annum.

The V.W.H. Hunt Steeplechases will take place at Oakley Park on Friday, April 1, the stewards being the Duke of Beaufort, Captain A. H. Sumner, M.F.H., Mr. C. A. R. Hoare, M.F.H., and Major Chester Master, M.P., with Mr. H. Van Notten Pole as starter, and Mr. E. Trinder as secretary. Mr. Pratt is judge and clerk of the scales, and Mr. E. A. Craddock clerk of the course. There will be six events, viz.: The V.W.H. Farmers' Cup, the Open Hunters' Steeplechase, the United Farmers' Steeplechase, the V.W.H. Redcoat Race, the United Hunt Steeplechase, and the Welter Cup.

To-morrow is the fixture for the Rugby Hunt Steeplechases.

Among the events is "a red coat point-to-point steeplechase," and "Roper," writing to *Land and Water*, says, "Many gentlemen have signified their intention of having a cut in at it, and the whole affair has a sporting ring about it which speaks well for the Rugby District.

Many suggestions have been made from time to time with regard to the issuing of a challenge cup for county cricket, to be held by the premier county *pro tem.* Now, it appears that some years ago the M.C.C. tried to institute a competition of the kind, they agreeing to find the trophy, conditionally, however, upon the matches being played at Lord's, which, of course, meant that they were to get the gate money. It is not surprising to hear that one county only entered the thing with spirit, this solitary instance being Middlesex Cricket Club, who, of course, play at Lord's. The idea was simply preposterous to suppose that—say the ten chief counties were going to allow all interest in their *favour* to concentrate at St. John's Wood for the benefit too of a committee not in want of funds. I think, however, if the cup were established, and the matches played in the various county grounds, the competition would infuse an interest in this noble pastime not hitherto established.

As the football season is fast drawing to a close, the final cup ties of various institutions are being played apace. On Saturday, at Glasgow, Queen's Park beat Dumbarton after a splendid game by two goals to one for the Scotch Challenge Cup; while on the same day at Wrexham the Dumbartons won the Welsh Challenge Cup by two goals to none, their opponents being Newton Stars.

The semi-final between Darwin and Old Carthusians for the English Association Cup was productive of some fast play; but the old boys, thanks to the good form of Prinsep, Page, and Parry, won by 4 goals to 1, and will have to contest the final against the Old Etonians at the same *venue* on April 9.

The Billiard Match for the Championship, which was to have taken place between Jos. Bennett and F. Shorter, has, as we predicted, fallen through. Whatever tempted the latter player to fancy he can wrest the dearly-held honours from Bennett, we will leave history to decide.

We have already remarked on the fact that young ladies are manifesting a desire to revive anklets. We are now told that the ornament may take the form of either a filagree band or a plain circlet, but to each is attached a row of little bells.

At the Arts Club.

Show Sunday at the Studios.—Show Sunday at the studios—be bothered.

The Editor of The Cuckoo presents his compliments to the Royal Academy, and trusts he may have the honour of seeing them in his office any morning this week to hear a private reading of the articles for the next issue of his paper.

Cake: Tea: No children on the premises.

An exhibition will open to-day at the School of Art Needlework, in Exhibition-road, South Kensington, of productions in needlework, which have occupied the ladies of this country for many years past. It will last for a fortnight, and will, we are assured, be well worthy of a visit.

Two "Rorke's Drift" pictures are in the field—one by which M. De Neuville has been making so much money in the North, the other by which Mrs. Butler will shortly make much fame in the Academy. The latter belongs to Her Majesty, but will be lent to Burlington House.

Mr. Augustus Craven is translating, at Her Majesty's express desire, "The Life of the Prince Consort," which will shortly be published in French.

Naval architects are determined to have enough at the next meeting of the Institution. The programme lasts over three days, and contains sixteen papers. Mr. Samuda will deal with the application of steel to the construction of war ships, and Mr. W. Parker, chief engineering surveyor to Lloyd's Registry, with the failure of the original steel plates used in the boilers of the *Livadia*. M. Berrier Fontaine will give an account of the experience of the French dockyards in the use of mild steel for shipbuilding. Mr. J. R. Ravenhill another on the increasing use of steel for shipbuilding and marine engineering. Mr. W. H. White, of the Admiralty, will contribute two on theoretical naval architecture; Mr. R. E. Froude one on the leading phenomena of the wave-making resistance of ships; and Mr. W. John, of Lloyd's Registry, will read a paper on grain cargoes.

The Earl of Crawford, Sir Edmund Beckett, the Astronomer-Royal, Mr. Bidder, Mr. Chambers, Captain Noble, and others have given notice that the following resolutions will be moved at the meeting to be held in the rooms of the Astronomical Society to consider the question of the endowment of research:—

"1. That in the opinion of this society the granting of public money for scientific research in cases where it does not appear that results useful to the public will be obtained, or where the researches proposed are likely to be undertaken by private individuals or public bodies, does not tend to the real advancement of science.

2. That this meeting considers it inexpedient that a physical observatory should be founded at the national expense.

3. That this meeting is of opinion that the Government grant to the Committee on Solar Physics at South Kensington should be discontinued.

4. That in the opinion of this meeting full accounts should be published of all money expended by the Government for scientific purposes, and that in all cases the nature of the work to be undertaken should be defined as clearly as possible."

We hope all these gentlemen have read The Cuckoo of the 16th.

Madame Amadi has been retained to take chief part in the new opera to be produced at the Globe after Easter.

Professor Morley's lectures at the University College, London, on "Education among the English," commence on May 4.

In a few days, works intended for exhibition at the Royal Academy by Messrs. J. Pettie, R.A., T. Faed, R.A., J. W. Oakes, A.R.A., H. Lejeune, A.R.A., Leader, Heywood, Hardy, Sadler, Haynes, Williams, and Fredk. Morgan, will be on view at Messrs. Tooth's rooms in Haymarket.

La Grande Duchesse Madame Hortense Schneider goes about the world of Paris seemingly like the good fairy in the nursery tale who shed about her wherever she went jewels of price. With this difference only—that Madame does this purely through inadvertence.

Her last exploit in this way was leaving, in a *fiacre*, the number of which she had taken no note of, that exquisite tortoiseshell fan with which the dainty movements of La Grande Duchesse had been accentuated—a fan bearing her monogram, in gold, under a golden coronet.

Theatrical managers in this country, instead of being subsidised by the State as they are in France, are more heavily mulcted by the powers that be than the public at large may probably conjecture. A single illustration of the reason I have for saying this will suffice—namely, that the parish rates are contributed to by them in London to the tune of fully seven hundred pounds sterling.

What says Sir Joseph Hooker to the following? I take it from the *Religio-Philosophical Journal*, which thus gravely relates how a Chinaman, working about a saloon in Virginia City, Nev., the other night, brought to his employer a Chinese lily in full bud, declaring that it would bloom just at twelve o'clock with the coming of the Chinese New Year.

"The plant was brought to the saloon about ten o'clock. The Chinaman dosed it with a powder dissolved in water, and performed over it several ceremonies. The buds were observed to swell visibly, but at 11.40 o'clock not one had opened. The hands of the clock were fast moving to the midnight hour. When it lacked about three minutes of twelve John drew out a piece of bamboo, about an inch in diameter, from some secret recess about his raiment. Placing this to his mouth he gently blew his warm breath on one of the buds, and almost instantly it was seen to expand and stand forth a full-blown flower.

"In rapid succession flower after flower was thus brought out, and at midnight the whole plant was a mass of blossoms."

It was the connection of "*ce cher* Alfred Tonson," as his *collaborateurs* of the London Panorama call him, with the new show, "The Charge of Balaklava," that brought so many theatrical people to the private view on Saturday. The Kendals were there—she bright and cheery though with her arm still in a sling; and David James and Thorne, neither particularly lively, and Mrs. Bernard Beere, and Mr. Lewis Wingfield, and a host of others. Lord Lucan was there in the morning, and Sir George Wombwell, who rode in the charge as Lord Cardigan's aide-de-camp, was taken prisoner, broke away, caught another horse, and got back to our lines, looked in during the afternoon. Good scene-painting, this Panorama, but neither in interest or workmanship comparable to the "Siege of Paris" in the Champs Elysées.

Mr. Dion Boucicault has discovered in Miss Clara Morris, of America, "the greatest English actress in modern tragic drama which has existed during his career." This superb compliment is paid to the lady in a letter from Mr. Boucicault to herself, and after enumerating various leading artistes—among others Bernhardt and Modjeska—the enthusiastic writer further declares, "But you combine all that is admirable in each."

And yet Mr. Boucicault says, in the same epistle, that he is not an enthusiast.

Everyone will be glad to hear that Dagonet, otherwise Mr. G. R. Sims, author of *Crutch and Toothpick*, has followed up that delightful skit with a comedy, entitled *The Mother-in-Law*. It cannot help being good.

Gounod's new opera, *Le Tribute de Zamora*, is to be produced at Paris for the first time on Wednesday.

Arrangements are now completed for Sarah Bernhardt's visit to Scotland. Accompanied by the *corps dramatique* who are to support her at the Gaiety Theatre, she will, during July, play in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Liverpool, and Dublin.

Mdlle. Modjeska ventured on the part of Juliet, on Saturday night, at the Court Theatre. As being Mdlle. Modjeska she was repeatedly called forward for applause.

Of course the theatre will be crowded, but those who go to see Shakespeare will be disappointed, for Modjeska does not add to her fame by her Juliet. She has somewhat misunderstood the great author, and has not yet learned to speak English well.

Whenever, therefore, as in the first burst of her love, success depended on her exact appreciation of Juliet, Mdlle. Modjeska failed from ignorance of the character; and whenever, as in the sleeping potion scene, it depended upon delivery, the actress failed from ignorance of the language.

The great Polish actress was, in fact, *afraid* of overstepping the delicate line which separates the passion of Romeo's sweetheart from immodesty. But Romeo's sweetheart was not afraid of overstepping it. Herein one vital difference.

Mdlle. Modjeska is not Mdlle. Stella Colas.

She made love exquisitely, but not as Juliet did, and she died admirably, but not as Juliet did.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson's Romeo will be nearly perfect when, after a night or two, he settles into his new character, as well as he has already settled into his new clothes; and Wilson Barrett's Mercutio is not far behind it.

Churches and Churchmen.

The chapel of the celebrated Rowland Hill, in the Blackfriars-road, is just now covered with notices of "farewell" sermons. It is coming down shortly; I presume to be rebuilt again.

Surrey Chapel was a famous place in its day. For nearly fifty years the eccentric minister preached here regularly in the winter season, and numerous are the anecdotes of his discourses.

London guide-books tell you the chapel is "octagonal;" but this is to understate the case, for it has sixteen sides. Such "many-sidedness" ought to delight a German philosopher.

Dr. Parker will preach in the City Temple on the 31st inst., in aid of the Home for Little Boys; and in the evening there will be a meeting in Exeter Hall.

I have before me a little handful of halfpenny tales issued from Mr. Spurgeon's Stockwell Orphanage. Little atoms of literature they are that can be read in five minutes. Many of them, I see, have run into their twentieth thousand.

To one of them, Little Dicky, "A Word of Comment," by C. H. Spurgeon, is appended, the heartening tone of which may be caught from the citation of a sentence or two. "Great is our delight," says Mr. Spurgeon, "when we get a warm grip of the hand from a fine young man, who says, *'I am one of your old Orphanage boys!'* We may not say that we feel proud, but something very like it."

If it is true, as I hear, that the Wesleyan Thanksgiving Fund has reached the sum of £296,637, the thanksgiving has indeed become a splendid reality.

We are glad to learn that the Bishop of Southwark is so far recovered that he hopes to be in his cathedral pulpit again on Palm Sunday, the 10th.

The fact was announced from that pulpit yesterday by the Very Rev. Canon Moore.

The annual business meeting of the Sunday Society is fixed for Thursday next, when Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., is to be nominated as president in succession to Lord Dunraven.

Cuckoo Notes.

(NOT BY W————H.)

O blythe, new Paper! From thy page
Seductive scraps I cull.
O Cuckoo, shall I call thee sage?
I *cannot* call thee dull!

When I'm reclining—business done—
Thy "Notes" provoke a laugh;
From line to line my optics run,
And twinkle at thy chaff.

From Fetter-lane I hear thee call
To thousands far away;
And unto me thou bringest all
The gossip of the day!

"Thrice welcome, darling of the spring!"
To me thou art, no doubt
No bird, but a most novel thing—
The brightest Paper out!

F. B. D.

Among the promised sights of London is "the hairy family of Burmah." We have a photograph of them now before us, and if anything could triumphantly establish "evolution" amongst us it ought to be this exhibition.

The mother, a person with a terrible mane and long, hairy arms, might pass, perhaps, as human with the very bigoted upholders of the theory that man was originally created on a pattern of his own: but what of her husband? To the ordinary observer he is an ape, and is bad at that. A harmless, wild thing, no doubt, but certainly not fit to have a vote under a manhood suffrage.

And the offspring of this union! The unhappy creature does not even *pretend* to be human. Its toes are manifestly prehensile, and sitting at its ease, the knuckles rest on the ground, with the fingers doubled back. All of the body that is exposed is as hairy as a chimpanzee's, and the expression of the face is simply the vacant, wistful look of an ordinary baboon.

Taken together, they are a dreadful argument for Darwinism, and if nature furnishes the world with another generation from the same stock, the grandchildren of the hairy pair would probably clinch the matter. Without any outrage upon the species, these creatures, when very young, might be subjected to monkey influences, having their food always hung out of reach to make them climb for it, the floor grated so their toes would have to grasp the bars as they walked, and spoken to only in barks or other inarticulate animal sounds.

The chances are that under such training, they might really relapse into pure monkeydom, and then they might be used for the regeneration of the gorillas, chimpanzees, and apes. The value of the missing link, we take it, will not be to teach man humility and show him his origin, but rather to give our poor relatives, the monkey, hopes of emulating us. We cannot tell in the least how great the encouragement might be to the baboons, and such, if they had before them such specimens of monkey men as this hairy family.

It would set a standard of self-culture before them to which they might easily attain, and which would thus bring them a step nearer to "the divinity" of man.

Let our men of science and our philanthropists remember this. We owe a great duty to the monkeys. They are only men gone wrong. When, therefore, they feel shocked at any efforts to obtain the missing link, let them take heart from the thought that its discovery may inspirit and encourage the monkeys to rise in the social scale.

They will not, it is true, be "oathable" for some time, but after all, if any borough insisted upon sending a baboon into Parliament to represent it, it could make an affirmation.

Whatever may be the truth about the spring, the butterflies seem to think it has set in. In the South of England, in some places, they are plentifully on the wing—not all of them hybernated specimens, but brand-new ones—sunny-winged "sulphurs," carefully-coloured "tortoise-shell," and brisk "whites," with nice clean wings just put on for the season.

But in butterflies as in flowers, the spring fashions are every year the same. And no one wants them ever to change.

In order to convey an idea of the importance attached to the work performed by the late Mr. Frank Buckland, it is only necessary to quote a few of the names that appear on the list of the Memorial Fund. They are the Dukes of Beaufort and St. Albans, the Marquises of Bute, Exeter, and Conyngham; the Right Hons. Sir W. V. Harcourt and A. J. Mundella, M.P.'s. A number of baronets, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen, Professor Owen, the Dean of Christchurch, and the Very Rev. Canon Wilberforce.

Is it true that during the past week forty cases of small-pox were refused admission to the various London Hospitals? A member of the Metropolitan Asylums Board affirmed the fact at the recent meeting of the Board, and attributed it to the hospitals being filled with cases of the non-pauper class, so that those who were legally entitled to admission could not be received.

What do the directors of the hospitals say to this?

It is the duty of every one responsible for a household to see that all its members have been vaccinated. Small-pox is assuming very serious proportions, indeed.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

FOR RELIABLE INFORMATION ON FOREIGN STOCKS, AS WELL AS HOME SECURITIES, CONSULT OUR

MONTHLY PRICE LIST.

MARCH EDITION READY (POST FREE) ON APPLICATION TO

Messrs. JOHN ABBOTT and CO.,

SWORN BROKERS 4 AND 5, PALMERSTON BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C.

SPECULATIVE ACCOUNTS OPENED ON FAVOURABLE TERMS.

JUST PUBLISHED.

ABBOTT'S STOCK AND SHARE ALMANAC FOR 1881.

PRICE 1s., POST FREE 1s. 2d.

Giving the Fullest Information on Stocks and Shares, Highest and Lowest Prices, Dividends and Railway Traffic Returns, Statistics of Foreign States, with a Short Account of the London Stock Exchange, and the Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and New York Exchanges.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN ABBOTT AND CO., STOCK AND SHARE BROKERS, 4 AND 5, PALMERSTON-BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C.

SOLD AT ALL RAILWAY BOOKSTALLS AND BOOKSELLERS.

CHARLES HAMPTON'S WHOLESALE PIANOFORTE CLUB,

ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED TO SUPPLY CIVIL SERVANTS ON CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES WITH

FIRST-CLASS PIANOS ONLY,

at a *bonâ fide* REDUCTION of 25 per cent. off Cash Prices, by MONTHLY PAYMENTS of One Guinea. Ballot Monthly, or Pianos may be had at once on payment of Five Guineas in advance, but this does not mean five guineas in addition.

PROSPECTUS AND "ANSWERS TO QUERIES" FREE.

74, CHARLOTTE-STREET, FITZROY-SQUARE, W.

LOCAL SECRETARIES REQUIRED.

ESTABLISHED 1851.

A MICROSCOPE IN EVERY HOME.

The edification and amusement afforded by the Microscope, divulging what is otherwise unseen, is marvellous. It is scarcely surpassed as a means for home amusement, and therefore should be in every home where comforts are studied. The public generally have not recognised its power to interest and amuse, yet a moment's reflection will convince one of its claims in these respects. The Microscope is as good a means to supply amusement as a piano. As there is a piano in every home, so there should be a Microscope in every home.

Dr. CARPENTER said, in his speech before the Microscopical Society, Nov. 10: "The popularisation of the Microscope, not only as an instrument of research, but as an intellectual amusement, has long engaged my attention."

The SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENT AGENCY, 10, Paternoster-square, E.C., has for its principal object the popularisation of the Microscope, and with this view has produced a high-class instrument at an exceptionally low price called the

INTERNATIONAL MICROSCOPE.

No. 1, with Brass Stand, coarse and fine adjustment, stage with universal motions, eye-piece; dividing object-glass, ¼, ½, and 1 inch, in brass box, when divided forming three different powers; live box, brass hand and stage forceps in a polished mahogany case, with lock and fittings. The money returned if not approved within ten days.

Price £3 3s.

THE SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENT AGENCY,

10, PATERNOSTER SQUARE.

London: Printed by W. SPEAIGHT AND SONS, 97, 98 and 99, Fetter-lane, E.C., and Published for the Proprietor by FREDERICK EVANS, at the Office, 1, York-street, Covent-garden, London, W.C.—Monday, March 28, 1881.